By Louise J.

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Retta in the rose arbor was reaching for a bud above her head when her cousins. Charlie and Alf. came out the side door and stood drawing on their gloves.

"Don't get reckless, old man," Charlie counseled as if continuing a conversation. "Retta means all right. She's a little flighty; that's all."

"That's what I used to think," Alf returned gloomily, "but I'm convinced now that she really shrinks from a marriage with me. I suppose she doesn't love me as she thought she did when we became engaged."

Charlie shook his head. "Oh, no, Alf, you're mistaken. She's wrapped up in

"Looks like It." Alf laughed sarcas-"This is the third time she's backed out, declaring she was not ready when the day loomed close. I haven't wanted to hurry her. I know a girl gives up a good deal when she marries. But a fellow with nobody and never a home to remember naturally thinks considerably of having a home of his own, especially with a little wife that's just"- He broke off for an instant, then went on: "I'm able to provide for her in the style she is accustomed to or I would not have asked her



"I AM GLAD TO MEET YOU." to marry me. And if we are ever to be married there's no use in waiting longer. If she's found that she cares

"None of that, Alf!" Charlie interrupted. "Retta flirts a little, but that's Have you told her how seriously you regard the postponement?"

"No, and I'm not going to either," Alf declared sulkily.

"Some one should. She"-"Some one shouldn't and shan't!" Alf said fiercely. "No girl is going to be coerced into marrying me. I suppose if I howled around and raised a great racket she would give in, but we'll never be married until she's perfectly willing without outside pressure. I'll get out of the way for awhile and let her have a chance to find herself; won't even write to her. I've influ-

enced her too much, maybe." Charlie still shook his head, but offered no further remonstrance, merely asking, "In what direction are you going to perambulate and when?"

"Oh, down Panama way and as soon as I can fix my business to leave it. and that won't take many days." Charlie whistled, "Not going in for

an engineering job in that sickly hole, I hope.

"I may find a job when I get there, but I'm going foot loose. I've always been interested in the big ditch scheme. It'll be a diversion to examine it at

close range." "And Retta" - Charlie began,

"I'll tell Retta and leave her free to find herself, as I said. And I don't want any one to interfere-to say one word to influence"-

They passed around the corner of the house on the way to the gate, and Retta sank limply upon a bench. She had been too startled to move at first and then perceived the impossibility of revealing her presence. It was eavesdropping, but she was not thinking of that or of the errand to Aunt Anna that had brought her across lots through the rose arbor. The "fluding" of herself had come with a suddenness that shook her breathless as she listened. She had not realized before how much her happiness depended upon Alf and Alf's faithful love or how very dearly she loved him.

"Poor fellow!" she sighed tenderly wiping her eyes. "Poor fell-how selfish I've been when I knew he never had a home and how he is looking forward to one of his own! He's such a home body, and I've been cheating him-keeping him in lodgings when he hates it so--and--and when I want-yes, I do-only I'm such a flyaway! I do want to make the dear boy a home. And he's going off to-to- Where is Panama way? A sickly hole, Charlie called it. Ob, he mustn't! He mustn't!"

She fled home, into the library, and began a search for information concerning Panama way, a search that was somewhat hindered by her linking the two words. But by the aid of the encyclopedia, the physical geography and magazine articles she soon acquired more knowledge of the country than her erstwhile boarding school teacher would have deemed possible, for Retta's strong point was not learning. She was just a sweet little girl. womanly and tender, with a careless shrinking from responsibility, engendered by her entire freedom from such. But now her heart was aroused, and she was aghast with horror at the idea of Alf, her own Alf, going down Pan- Brahms, with penciling of silver gray ama way to endure all sorts of tor- and black following the shape of the ments and dangers and finally die of feather alternately.

the dreadful fevers! He should not! He should not! She would prevent it somehow, and it must be done at once, for he would be making arrangements to leave his business, even this minute, perhaps!

She rushed away to consult her mother, but that good lady, being deeply engrossed in some charitable function, was out indefinitely, and Retta, feeling no time could be wasted, determined to act for herself. Perhaps if she had had the advice of an older head she would have been less precipitate and irrevocable in her actions

"I'm mowing a clean swath, burning my ships behind me," she commented concusedly, in the middle of a tempestuously busy afternoon in which she did some very unconventional things.

"I suppose it does look curious to them; I suppose the bride to be's mother is usually to the fore and the b. to b. hangs back in blushing confusion, but I can't wait on mamma when Ait's getting ready this very minute for Panama way. I've got to fix it so there's no getting out of it and leave me a rag of-and I don't care much if they do stare-and I guess I'm sure of dear old Alf!"

Yet she was a bit anxious as she waited in a convenient spot for waylaying him as he left his office. If-if Alf were bent and determined on Panama way, she would be in a pretty predicament! She whipped around the corner, apparently oblivious of him until she almost collided with him. Then her heart sank at his grave and formal apology. He had been more deenly hurt and offended than he had shown the evening before when she had insisted on a further postponement, but she must-she caught her breath as he said coldly:

"I am glad to meet you. It will save my coming up this evening to tell

"And I'm glad to meet you," she broke in, laughing nervously. "I want to tell you that I've-I've changed my mind, Alf." "Changed your mind?" he repeated

"Yes, about-about '-it was harder

than she had imagined with his cold, unresponsive eyes upon her; what if he should-she quaked, but plunged on "about our wedding-and we won't postpone it, after all."

He flushed angrily as he replied, You were not asked to change your mind-nor the arrangements you made last evening."

"You mean that you don't want to that you won't now," she cried, with wide eves.

"I mean that you are not to be compelled, influenced. When did you see Charlie?" And between his teeth he muttered savagely, "Just wait till I

"I haven't seen Charlie to speak to since yesterday morning!" she declared and burst into a bewildering torrent of explanation and tears. "Oh, if you won't, Alf; if you've changed your mind and don't want me now, when I've found out how much I want youif you won't-I'll have to run away! For, oh, Alf, I went alone and bought the dress-and took it to madame's and was measured-and I've ordered all the invitations-and engaged the caterer and the flowers, all-just as we planed-because I wanted to show you how much I care," Sobs that she struggled to repress choked her.

"And you haven't seen Charlie-no one has influenced you?" he demanded

incredulously "No one has said a word to me about it! I-I found out how much I really cared, and I couldn't get ready fast enough, though mamma was away, and I had to do it alone," she panted impetuously.

He melted entirely. "You dear little whirlwind! You have smashed the proprieties!" he breathed softly and proudly. "I wish"-he glanced about furtively; no. it was too public! "Anyway we can have an hour at the store

selecting our furniture." And, tucking her hand under his arm, they wandered away down the "primrose path," the journey down Panama way entirely and forever for-

losing their dignity. An oil painting of exceptional excellence should be given a special position.

Water colors and pastels in delicate tints and black and white and soft etchings should properly be placed in wall spaces where the light is strongest. The darker and more heavily shaded pictures should hang farther tway from the light. From the faintly colored pictures in the clearest light

the glance should be involuntarily but

skillfully led to the deeper toned pic-

tures farther back in the room. Sometimes, however, a dark corner that needs brightening may demand a lighter picture or a spot of brilliant coloring may be risked. A pen and ink sketch with white mat fills in well in such a case. Harmony must be studied and the position of a picture well considered before its place is decided. One with broad white mat should never be hung next to a carbon in a heavy black frame. The eye must be led, not jerked, from one picture to another.

Wash Lace In Milk.

An almost infallible method of cleansing lace which has been much stained through age or other causes, says a writer in Good Housekeeping, is to stew it in milk. Place the lace in a jar and cover with milk. Then set the jar in a saucepan of water, after the manner of cooking beef tea. An hour or two are usually sufficient. The water in the saucepan will boil, but not so the milk. By allowing the milk to boil the stains would be more firmly fixed than ever. The writer tells of an old piece of brussels which had been lying on a fan for twenty years and was marked with brown stripes. All ordinary treatment had failed to remove the stains, but the lace came out of the hot milk treatment as white as snow and entirely uninjured,

The Silver Laced Wyandotte, The Silver Laced Wyandotte is the original Wyandotte, the pioneer of the breed. The males have breast feathers of white, laced or bordered with strong black feathers. This is also the plumage of the female in back, wings and breast. The Silver Penciled female has plumage patterned after the Dark

***************** **GOVENMENT COSTS** TOO MUCH.

The state of Wisconsin is about to erect a new capitol building at a proposed cost of from four to six million dollars. As such things go, perhaps the trifle of two millions difference in the figures given is not worthy of consideration especially when it is understood that the state of Wisconsin has plenty of money on hand.

A correspondent, in describing the glories of the proposed new capitol, says that the state is able to build it at this time because of the large sums which Wisconsin legislation has recently diverted from the coffers of the corporations of the state into the state treasury. This proceeding is said to have afforded the people of that commonwealth great relief from taxa-

This may look to some persons like the economy of true statesmanship but there are common, every-day citi zens who may be tempted to inquire what right any state has to assess taxes upon either the people or the corporations, for the purpose of squandering \$6,000,000 on a public building. As long as such crimes against the taxpayers, both individual and corporate, continue to be the rule, the state must practice extortion in some direction in order to make the extravagance possible. It is no apology to say that the corporations pay the cost Why should they or anybody else pay

The fact is that in the majority of states the amount of revenue necessary to be raised in order to carry on the government is estimated on the basis of all that it is possible to expend for a specific purpose after the money has been collected. The object is to get money-not much difference how, but "get it." Of course, there is no way to spend it until it is in hand, but after that there is no restraint upon the spending of it. And so great reformers inspire legislation to squeeze great sums from great cor porations, whenever the people rebel against such taxation, and the fact that the people do not directly pay the cost is set up as not only the excuse for, but the justification of, public expeditures entirely beyond rea-

Government costs too much in this country. The expense of administering it is often in excess of the benefits derived, when there are any. The sixmillion-dollar state capitol in the modest little city of Madison, Wis., will look like a forty-thousand-dollar diamond in the shirt bosom of a twodollar man. It will be a lasting evidence of republican degeneracy, and It will not suffice as an apology for its existence to say that it was paid for by the corporations.-Editorial: The Ohio Magazine, February, 1907.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ELLIS

Suggests a Safeguard Against State

Extravagance. Danger to a state in securing all its revenue from excise or privilege taxes, was shown by Attorney General Wade H Ellis in an address before the Commercial club on "Taxation." He argued that the people would to a large extent, lose their touch with the state government, if they made no direct contribution to its support through the medium of taxes.

To avoid the danger the speaker suggested that the legislature levy an annual assessment against the counties equal to about 10 per cent of the cost of operating the state government. This assessment to be divided in proportion to the amount of taxes raised by each county for county purposes. The attorney general suggest ed that this would serve all practical results of entirely separating state from local taxation, while at the same time it has many commendable features of its own.

Xenia, O.

************** TAXATION REVISION IN MANY STATES

Bills to create tax commissions are pending before the general assembly of the following states: Alabama Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon and Wyoming. In some of the states these bills have been made laws, and the probability is that bills will be enacted by a majority of the states, if not by all of them. This shows conclusively that the problem of how to improve the state and local taxation system is a question of vital and urgent importance in nearly every state in the

Principles of taxation, like all economic principles, are universal in their application. Work done in one state may be made useful in all other states. By making investigations and guiding discussion on similar lines, and then comparing results, the people in each state can help all other states and be helped by what all other states accomplish.

Program of Hearings Tax Commission

of Ohio. May 6-Taxation of Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries. June 3-Taxation of Agricultural In-

dustries. tept. 8-Taxation of Banking, Insur ance and Building and Loan Associations, Moneys and Credits, oct. 7-Taxation of Public Service Corporations.

A Significant Prayer.

"May the Lord help you make Bucklen's Arnica Salve known to all," writes J. G. Jenkins, of Chapel Hill, N. C. It quickly took the pain out of a felon for me and cured it in a wonderfully short time." Best on earth for sores, burns and wounds. 25c at Wm. Kipp's Sons' drug store.

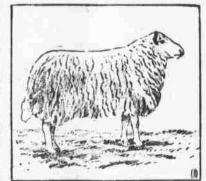
HINTS FOR THE SHEEP BREEDER

I invested in a small flock of pure bred Cheviot sheep five years ago. They were somewhat run down and very poor in flesh, but had good blood from the best strains in the country. Two years ago I bought still another flock. I have given them personal attention and the best of care. I have disposed of all the poor ones. I now have a splendid bunch. Last year especially they gave me some very gratifying returns. They are a very handsome as well as hardy breed of sheep. I get great pleasure as well as profit in caring for them. I am now wintering ninety-four head.

I am feeding alfalfa and clover hay and bean tops for roughage. I also give them a grain ration once a day consisting of whole oats, bran and oilmeal. They were fed pumpkins in the late fall. I also feed turnips, small potatoes or carrots once or twice a week. I think some sort of root crop is very beneficial, and I find my sheep do excellently well when fed along these lines. This is especially true when the ewes are suckling their lambs. At this time of the year it is impossible, of course, to have grass, and some succulent feed, like roots of some sort, is very necessary.

I think dipping is very important. It is almost impossible to keep sheep in cood condition if they are infested with ticks. I usually dip my sheep as late in the fall as possible. I select a warm sunshing day for the work. I also dip them a second time in the spring soon after shearing. I give close attention to my ewes at lambing time. As soon as they have had their lambs they are separated from the rest of the flock and kept in a small pen by themselves until the lambs are three or four days old. Cheviot ewes usually give very little or no trouble, as they make good mothers, producing strong lambs and supplying an abundant yield

Cheviots may not be as profitable as some other breeds, but I find it more satisfactory to raise one large, strong lamb than two undersized ones. Many of my ewes have twins. Last winter



forty gave me sixty-two lambs, of which fifty-six were raised. As soon as the lambs begin to cat they are given a room by themselves with a creep so they can run in and out as they please. They are fed as much grain as they will eat three times a day. The very best clover hay is kept in the rack above them so that they can nibble as much as they like at all times. The troughs are fixed so that the lambs cannot get into them and disturb the

At first they are fed ground oats and bran, later cracked corn, bran and oilmeal. As my sheep are kept in very warm operters I shear them as early as March 15 to April 1. We usually shear by hand, clipping them as close as possible. I believe the hand machine would be advisable, as I understand that it is giving good success wherever it is used. The fleece of each animal is weighed, and a record is kept, so that I know the amount of wool that each sheep produces. Last year the fleeces averaged about seven pounds each. I expect them to average more this year, as the flock on the whole is in better condition .- C. A. Eldridge, Wayne County, N. Y., in American Agriculturist.

Baby Beef. At the Fort Hayes (Kan.) experiment station sixty calves were used to test the value of various feed combinations. The reason for this experiment was to find out the cheapest method of breeding baby beef and keeping the fertility upon the land. The calves were divided into four groups of fifteen each. They averaged 400 pounds at the beginning of the experiment, which lasted 157 days. The first lot was fed corn and cob meal and alfalfa hay; the second, ground barley and alfalfa hay; the third, ground emmer and alfaifs hay; the fourth, ground Kaffir corn and alfalfa hay. The alfalfa was placed in feed racks, and the grain was spread over it. The calves were fed twice daily as much roughage as they would clean up. This averaged about nine pounds per head. The grain ration was about two and a half pounds per head daily. The result of the experiment shows strongly in favor of the corn and cob meal and alfalfa bay. The lot thus fed made the largest average daily gain. Their feed post less, they sold for a better price, and the net proceeds were larger. The profit per head averaged about \$3.18. Throughout the experiment the local price was used as a basis from which to estimate the cost of feed.

Wheat Middlings For Ewes, Wheat middlings fed with the fall pasture is a valuable ration for the breeding ewes. These should be kept strong and thrifty at this season of the year, and wheat middlings are rich in ash and proteids, which are the foodstnffs necessary.

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